

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining demand-indicating data, the demand-indicating data including at least one of demand data and forecast data on the transactional subject.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining inventory-tracking data, the inventory-tracking data including at least one of consumption data and inventory data.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the generating comprises generating an order as the business decision, the order being for the transactional subject based on the requirement-indicating data.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the generating comprises generating a shipping instruction as the business decision, the

shipping instruction being for the transactional subject based on the requirement indicating data.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A method for planning a business decision, the method comprising:

obtaining requirement-indicating data of a first entity with respect to a transactional subject, wherein the obtaining comprises extracting a subset of the requirement-indicating data from a requirement-indicating database associated with an enterprise resource planning system, wherein the extracting process is selected from the group consisting of a process based on compatibility of a processing system of a second business entity to receive the extracted subset, a process based on previous history of usefulness of prior extracted data, a process based on a model for managing the transactional subject and a process based on properties of the database;

automatically transmitting the obtained requirement-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network;

automatically feeding the transmitted requirement-indicating data into an electronic processor for monitoring the transactional subject, the electronic processor being associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity; and

generating a business decision of the first business entity and the second business entity that is based on the requirement-indicating data and that is made solely by the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic processing system.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting superseding requirement-indicating data on an as-needed basis to replace prior requirement-indicating data at the second business entity.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting differential data for expressing a change with respect to prior requirement indicating data at the second business entity.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the generating comprises generating the business decision on production of the transactional subject based on an exchange of the requirement-indicating data at a regular interval, the regular interval having a duration that depends upon a nature of the business of the first business entity and the second business entity.

Claims 11-13 (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A method for planning a business decision, the method comprising:

obtaining demand-indicating data with respect to a transactional subject, wherein the obtaining comprises:

extracting a relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from a database, wherein the extracting process is selected from the group consisting of a process based on compatibility of a processing system of a second business entity to receive the extracted subset, a process based on previous history of usefulness of prior extracted data, a process based on a model for managing the transactional subject and a process based on properties of the database; and

formatting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data into an extensible mark-up language document;

automatically transmitting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network;

automatically feeding the transmitted demand-indicating data into an electronic processor for tracking the demand-indicating data, the electronic processor being associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity; and

generating a business decision of at least one of the first business entity and the second business entity that is based on the demand-indicating data and that is made

solely by the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic data processing system.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the extensible mark-up language document as the demand indicating data over the communications network.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15 further comprising:

receiving the transmitted extensible mark-up language document; and
translating the extensible mark-up language document into a data format compatible with an enterprise planning resource system.

Claim 17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 further comprising displaying the demand-indicating data for a user affiliated with one of the first business entity and the second business entity.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change the manufactured quantity of a material as the transactional subject.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change a supply of material to fulfill a firm demand derived from the demand-indicating data.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the obtaining includes obtaining one of demand data and forecast data with respect to the transactional subject.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the first business entity represents a customer of a material as the transactional subject and wherein the second business entity represents a supplier of the material.

Claims 23-33 (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the business decision comprises an order processing decision.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the order processing decision comprises procuring a production material for either said first business entity or said second business entity.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the business decision comprises engaging in a commercial transaction involving the transactional subject.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36 wherein the commercial transaction comprises purchase of the transactional subject.

38. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7 wherein the extracting process is based on properties of the database, ~~wherein the extracting process comprises extracting data from a relevant list of relevant data fields in the database.~~

Claim 39 (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the extracting process is based on properties of the database, ~~wherein the extracting process comprises extracting data from a relevant list of relevant data fields in the database.~~

Claim 41 (canceled)

42. (new) The method according to claim 7 wherein the extracting process is based on compatibility of a processing system of a second business entity to receive the extracted subset.

43. (new) The method according to claim 7 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on previous history of usefulness of prior extracted data.

44. (new) The method according to claim 7 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on a model for managing the transactional subject.

45. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the extracting process is based on compatibility of a processing system of a second business entity to receive the extracted subset.

46. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on previous history of usefulness of prior extracted data.

47. (new) The method according to claim 14 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on a model for managing the transactional subject.